

Message Text

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43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
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O R 221855Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1158

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 7157

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON, OAS

SUBJ: PROPOSAL FOR AMENDMENT OF RIO TREATY

REFS: SANTIAGO 6974 (NOTAL); SANTIAGO 7054; STATE 253530

1. SUMMARY: CHILEAN OAS REP'S PERSONAL PROPOSAL FOR QUICK ADOPTION OF PROTOCOL LEADING TO TERMINATION OF ANTI-CUBAN SANCTIONS NOT ACCEPTED BY GOC, WHICH APPEARS TO PREFER A COOLING OFF PERIOD AFTER QUITO CONFERENCE BEFORE DECIDIING ON FURTHER STEPS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN CONVERSATION NOV 22 WITH FONMIN CARVAJAL AFTER PL-480 EXCHANGE OF NOTES CEREMONY, I DELIVERED SECRETARY'S LETTER (STATE 255993) AND IMPARTED SUBSTANCE OF PARA 7 OF STATE 252031 CONCERNING US VIEWS ON FUTURE HEMISPHERE SECURITY DEVELOPMENTS.

3. CARVAJAL RESPONDED WARMLY TO EMPHASIS ON NEED FOR CONTINUING INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS, AND SAID WE COULD COUNT ON CHILE ALWAYS TO BE PREPARED FOR THEM. HE ACCEPTED DESIRABILITY OF MODERNIZING OAS; SAID HE FULLY UNDERSTOOD AND APPROVED US DEL POSITION AT QUITO MFM; AGREED CUBAN PROBLEM WAS FAR FROM THE ONLY OR MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE IN INTER-AMERICAN RELATIONS; AND STATED HE IN NO WISE BELIEVED THAT US INTEREST IN THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM WAS DIMINISHING. WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO REMARK
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THAT CHILE WAS TOTALLY OPPOSED TO A LATIN AMERICAN

ORGANIZATION WHICH WOULD EXCLUDE THE UNITED STATES.

4. I BROUGHT CONVERSATION AROUND TO CONTINUING UTILITY OF RIO TREATY AND PROSPECTS FOR ITS AMENDMENT. SAID I HAD HEARD OF PROPOSALS TO MOVE QUICKLY TO MODIFY TREATY, SO THAT SIMPLE MAJORITY WOULD BE ALL THAT WAS REQUIRED TO TERMINATE SANCTIONS AGAINST CUBA. WE ENGAGED IN SOME DISCUSSION AS TO WHETHER SUCH A MOVE WOULD STRENGTHEN OR WEAKEN TIAR.

5. I ASKED CARVAJAL WHAT HE THOUGHT WOULD BE PROPER FOLLOW-ON AFTER RIO CONFERENCE. HE SAID HE THOUGHT CUBA SHOULD BE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY, SAY OVER A PERIOD OF A YEAR, TO DEMONSTRATE THAT IT HAD CEASED SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITY. THEREAFTER, SANCTIONS MIGHT BE LIFTED. I ASKED HIM WHETHER CHILE HAD MADE THIS SUGGESTION AT QUITO. NOT IN ANY FORMAL WAY, HE REPLIED, BUT THEIR THINKING HAD BEEN SIMILAR TO THAT OF BRAZILIANS, WHO HAD PUBLICLY STATED AT QUITO THAT "TIME WAS NOT RIPE" FOR COSTA RICAN-VENEZUELAN-COLOMBIAN PROPOSAL.

6. CONCERNING TRUCCO PROPOSAL FOR QUICK ACTION TO END SANCTIONS THROUGH SPECIAL PROTOCOL REQUIRING ONLY SIMPLE MAJORITY FOR THEIR TERMINATION (REFTELS), FONMIN NOTED AMB TRUCCO HAD LEFT FOR WASHINGTON NOV 21 WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS, SAID THE MATTER WAS VERY COMPLEX AND NEEDED FURTHER STUDY.

7. COMMENT: IT THUS APPEARS THAT TRUCCO AND FONMIN POLITICAL OFFICER BERNSTEIN RAN INTO OPPOSITION FROM HARLINERS IN TRYING TO SELL THEIR PROPOSAL, AND THAT FOR TIME BEING TRUCCO WILL NOT PRESS IT. THRUST OF FONMIN'S COMMENTS WAS THAT THERE SHOULD BE A COOLING-OFF PERIOD AFTER QUITO--WHICH WOULD SEEM TO RULE OUT ANY QUICK MOVE FOR A SPECIAL TREATY PROTOCOL. HOW CHILEANS WOULD REACT IF SOMEONE ELSE PROPOSED IT IS DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE. CLEAR THEY WOULD NOT BE ENTHUSIASTIC, BUT I DOUBT THEY WOULD STAY OFF BAND-WAGON SHOULD IT GET UP HIGH HEAD OF STEAM.

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8. IN THIS CONNECTION, CARVAJAL SAID HE THOUGHT MEETING OF FON MINISTERS AT LIMA/AYACUCHO IN DECEMBER WOULD PROVIDE USEFUL OCCASION FOR PERSONAL EXCHANGES OF VIEWS, BUT THAT HE DID NOT ANTICIPATE ANYTHING BEYOND THIS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SANTIA07157
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740339-0535
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741120/aaaaaqfm.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: SANTIAGO 6974 (NOTAL); SANTIAGO 7054, ; STATE 253530
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <14 MAR 2003 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPOSAL FOR AMENDMENT OF RIO TREATY
TAGS: OCON, OAS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005